



RE: HB 5046: An Act Adopting The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact And Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact

March 4, 2022

Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg and Members of the Public Health Committee:

I am writing in strong support of *HB 5046: An Act Adopting the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact and Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact*. I am a psychologist who lives in Lyme CT and works as Director of Student Counseling and Health Services at Connecticut College in New London, CT.

The Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (or PSYPACT; <https://psypact.site-ym.com/>) is an interstate compact that allows temporary service delivery to patients residing in other states, increases access to mental health care and improves continuity of care for patients who cross state lines due to work, school, or other factors. The profession of psychology is moving towards full adoption of PSYPACT. At present, 28 states have enacted legislation and are actively participating in the Compact, with an additional 9 having legislation introduced (*for a full map, see: <https://psypact.site-ym.com/page/psypactmap>*). Both our national and statewide associations, the American Psychological Association (www.apa.org) and the Connecticut Psychological Association (www.connpsych.org), strongly support the passage of PSYPACT legislation.

Without PSYPACT, we continue to experience chronic disruptions in mental health care for patients with variability in their physical location. For example, a student attending Connecticut College who physically lives in Rhode Island or Massachusetts will be able to see a Massachusetts provider while residing at home and a Connecticut provider while on campus, but has no ability to see one provider continuously as they move between home and school locations. Similarly, an adult who lives and works in different states will have restrictions on seeing a provider licensed in either state (e.g. can only see a Connecticut provider when physically in Connecticut and not when out-of-state at their office). These restrictions greatly limit the flexibility of patients and providers to provide seamless and continuous care, creating unnecessary barriers and logistical burdens to obtaining mental health treatment. This does not make sense, is not in the best interest of the consumers we serve, and is inconsistent with national trends and the fuller adoption of telehealth to increase access to behavioral healthcare, needed now more than ever.

As a psychologist and constituent, I strongly urge you to **support HB 5046** and do your part to ensure this bill passes during the 2022 legislative session. I have attached CPA's Fact Sheet on PSYPACT and our organization is available to provide you with additional information or respond to any questions you may have. Thank you for everything you do to support mental health and promote access to care in Connecticut.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Janet Dee Spoltore, Ph.D., ABPP'.

Janet Dee Spoltore, Ph.D., ABPP
Director of Student Counseling and Health Services
270 Mohegan Avenue, New London, CT 06320
email: janet.spoltore@conncoll.edu



Fact Sheet regarding PSYPACT

The Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) is an interstate compact that increases access to mental health care and provides for continuity of care for an increasingly mobile society. It authorizes two **limited** interjurisdictional privileges. **PSYPACT:**

- Does allow for Telehealth from providers to patients in separate states.
 - Does allow for up to 30 days of In-Person Face-to-Face practice.
 - Does not apply to permanent In-Person Face-to-Face practice.
- **PSYPACT is not a multistate licensure compact.**
 - A psychologist must hold a current, full, and unrestricted license to practice in a HOME STATE which has enacted PSYPACT.
 - A HOME STATE maintains authority over the license of any psychologist practicing under the authority of PSYPACT.
 - A HOME STATE can impose adverse action against a psychologist's license issued by the HOME STATE.
- **PSYPACT legislation is needed in addition to our recently passed Telehealth bills,** as it pertains to the practice of telehealth by licensed psychologists across state lines, for example if a patient moves or goes to college in another state.
- **PSYPACT provides protection to the public** by certifying that psychologists have met acceptable standards of practice and provides compact states with a mechanism to address disciplinary issues that occur across state lines. To be clear, however, **a HOME STATE is not responsible for disciplinary or alternative action of out-of-state psychologists. Specifically, out-of-state psychologists could not be mandatorily assigned into HAVEN.**